# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3546
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
USE OF TOBACCO BY TEENAGERS
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether one in five teens use tobacco in the country as per the Global Youth Tobacco survey conducted recently as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 20, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the survey;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new class room-enforcer tobacco monitor;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to control the use of tobacco by school-going teens in particular and others in general?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) India 2006 − A school based survey on a representative sample of students aged 13-15 years indicates that over one in ten students currently use tobacco. The findings of the survey in brief are as detailed below:

# Decreased exposure to second hand smoke in public paces at National level (49% to 40%)

# Initiation of smoking before age 10 has significantly decreased at National level (49% to 37%)

# Narrowing of gap between boys and girls, in tobacco use,

# Prevalence of tobacco use has not decreased,

# Exposure to cigarette advertisements on billboards has not decreased,

# Sale to minors does not show any improvement over 3 years,

# Free sampling of cigarettes have increased in some regions,

# Central, Eastern & North-eastern region need special attention as tobacco prevalence has increased or remains high.

(c) to (e) The Government has enacted "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce,Production,Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003",prohibits smoking in public places including educational institution; sale of tobacco products to minors and sale around educational institution especially to protect the health of teenagers.

Government of India has launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007-08.This program envisages broadly:

1. Capacity building of State Tobacco Control Cells and District Level Monitoring Cells for the effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003.

2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of Tobacco.

3. Carrying out school programme in the Government schools to sensitize the teenagers.

4. Mass media/IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs.